

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5622

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC TECH

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC: ITEM 14 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

THE SWEDISH OBSERVER AT THE 61ST ECOSOC IN THE NAME OF ALL NORDIC DELEGATIONS IS CIRCULATING A DRAFT RESOLUTION ENTITLED "STRENGTHENING THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." HE HAS ASKED FOR OUR COMMENT ON THE DRAFT QUOTED BELOW. THE DRAFT IS PRECEDED BY A TEXT OF 6 PARAGRAPHS EXPLAINING THE RATIONALE FOR THE DRAFT AND HOW IT FITS IN WITH PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT UNCTAD IV AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, THE NORDICS DO NOT INTEND TO TABLE THE DRAFT UNTIL THEY HAVE RECEIVED COMMENTS FROM KEY DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING COMMENTS FROM THE US DELEGATION. WE THEREFORE WOULD APPRECIATE A RESPONSE FROM THE DEPT ASAP. THE ITEM IS DUE TO BE TAKEN UP IN THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE IN THE WEEK COMMENCING JULY 19.

QUOTE

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL
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AND REGIONAL CENTRES: A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH BY

THE UN SYSTEM

1. IN RESOLUTION ... (IV) ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY "STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" (ECNLOSED) UNCTAD IV DECIDED INTER ALIA TO RECOMMEND THAT EACH DEVELOPING COUNTRY ESTABLISH APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONAL MACHINERY, INCLUDING A NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, WITH URGENT ATTENTION BEING PAID TO DEFINING THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF SUCH A CENTRE. UNCTAD IV FURTHER RECOMMENDED THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN ORDER TO SUPPORT NATIONAL EFFORTS AND TO PROMOTE COLLECTIVE SELF-RELIANCE AMONG THEMSELVES, TAKE ACTION TO ESTABLISH SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTERS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WHICH COULD SERVE AS ESSENTIAL LINKS WITH AND GIVE ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL CENTERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON E.G. THE IDENTIFICATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS, THE STIMULATION OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF TECHNOLOGY.

2. IT WAS RECOGNIZED BY UNCTAD IV (SEE PREAMBLE OF ABOVE-MENTIONED RESOLUTION) THAT ACTION BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY MEASURES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, AS WELL AS EFFECTIVE CO-OPERATION FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND CO-ORDINATED ACTION BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

AS REGARDS ACTION BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, UNCTAD IV DECIDED TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY SERVICE ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WITHIN UNCTAD TO RENDER ASSISTANCE AT THE REQUEST OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FROM THE REGULAR BUDGET OF UCTAD. HOWEVER, AS FAR AS ACTION BY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IS CONCERNED, IT WAS FELT THAT SUCH MEASURES SHOULD BE DISCUSSED AND ELABORATED IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, OR POSSIBLY THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE NORDIC DELEGATIONS CONSIDER THAT THE ECOSOC SHOULD TAKE STEPS AT ITS 61ST SESSION TO INITIATE THE ELABORATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH BY THE UNITED
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NATIONS SYSTEM OF ORGANIZATIONS TOWARDS ASSISTING NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. WHILE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNCTAD ADVISORY SERVICE TO RENDER ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF UNCTAD IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF SUCH AN APPROACH, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE UN SYSTEM AS A WHOLE, NOTABLY UNDP, UNIDO AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES,

SHOULD BE MOBILIZED FOR THE TASK.

4. THEREFORE THE NORDIC DELEGATIONS PROPOSE THAT THE ECOSOC SHOULD REQUEST THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE CAPACITY OF THE UN SYSTEM AS A WHOLE TO RENDER FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTERS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, BEARING IN MIND THE SEVERAL FUNCTIONS TO BE PERFORMED BY SUCH CENTERS. FURTHERMORE, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN SHOULD, ON THE BASIS OF THIS INVENTORY OF EXISTING CAPACITY AND ON-GOING ACTIVITIES, PROPOSE APPROPRIATE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF THE UN AS REGARDS TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING POSSIBLE GUIDELINES FOR THE DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT UN BODIES AND FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION.

IN ORDER TO BE OF IMMEDIATE PRACTICAL VALUE TO NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES, THE STUDY SHOULD BE SO DESIGNED AS TO BE ABLE TO SERVE AS A SOURCE OF REFERENCE FOR NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTERS AS REGARDS THE ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY THE UN SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. IN OTHER WORDS, NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO DECIDE TO WHICH UN BODY THEY SHOULD ADDRESS A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN A CERTAIN FIELD, E.G. WHICH BODY IS BEST EQUIPPED TO ADVISE ON THE ELABORATION OF A NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY POLICY? TO ASSIST IN THE ELABORATION OF MODEL CONTRACTS FOR LICENSING AGREEMENTS? TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON EXISTING TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE/MINING/ PRODUCTION OF FORESTRY PRODUCTS/EDUCATION SYSTEMS/HEALTH CARE ETC? TO ASSIST IN THE SELECTION OF APPROPRIATE

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EQUIPMENT? TO EVALUATE THE EFFICIENCY AND APPROPRIATENESS OF FOREIGN OR INDIGENOUS TECHNOLOGY?

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ACTION IO-13

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5. AN INVENTORY OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM WAS PRESENTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AT ITS THIRDS SESSION 2-20 FEBRUARY 1976 (DOCUMENT E/C.8/29 AND ADD. 1). THIS REPORT CONTAINS VALUABLE CONCLUSIONS AND MATERIAL FOR THE PROPOSED STUDY. HOWEVER, THE REPORT IS NOT GEARED TO THE IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES FOR THE VERY REASON THAT SUCH CENTRES WERE NOT INTERNATIONALLY ENDORSED BEFORE UNCTAD IV. THUS THE REPORT PRESENTED TO THE CSTD IS OF AN ORGANIZATIONAL NATURE, WHILE THE PROPOSED STUDY SHOULD BE FUNCTIONAL, I.E., IT SHOULD TAKE AS ITS STARTING-POINT THE FUNCTIONS, THE CONCRETE TASKS OF THE CENTRES, SUCH TASKS BEING INTER ALIA DEFINITION OF POLICY, COLLECTION, SCREENING AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON SOURCES OF TECHNOLOGY, ASSISTANCE IN THE ACQUIRING OF TECHNOLOGY (PURCHASE, LICENSING ETC), AND ADAPTATION AND EVALUATION OF TECHNOLOGY.

6. IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3507 (XXX) THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS REQUESTED TO PRESENT TO THE 61ST UNCLASSIFIED

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SESSION OF THE ECOSOC A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING A PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NETWORK FOR THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION, SUCH AN INFORMATION SYSTEM SHOULD BE VIEWED AS ONE COMPONENT IN A COMPREHENSIVE UN PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE IN THE FIELD OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AS IT WILL ASSIST NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES TO PERFORM THEIR

INFORMATION FUNCTION. THEREFORE THE STUDY REQUESTED IN G.A. RESOLUTION 3507 (XXX) DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR OR OVERLAP THE PROPOSED STUDY. IN THIS CONTEXT IT IS IMPORTANT TO BEAR IN MIND THAT NATIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED EXCLUSIVELY AS RECIPIENTS OF INFORMATION: THEY CAN ALSO SUPPLY INFORMATION ON INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED OR ADAPTED TECHNOLOGY.

STRENGTHENING THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

RECALLING GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3362 (S-VII) ON DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION, IN PARTICULAR CHAPTER II ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

RECALLING FURTHER GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 3507 (XXX) ON INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN THE FIELD OF THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY,

RECALLING ALSO UNCTAD RESOLUTION ... (IV) ON STRENGTHENING THE TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES,

AWARE OF THE NEED TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE POTENTIAL OF THE ENTIRE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE STRENGTHENING OF THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL CAPACITY,

REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE HEADS OF UNCTAD, UNIDO, WIPO, UNDP, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED, TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE CAPACITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO RENDER FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF NATIONAL CENTRES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, BEARING IN MIND THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS OF SUCH CENTRES INTER ALIA THE IDENTIFICATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS, THE COLLECTION, EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, THE ASSISTANCE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ADAPTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SUITED TO DOMESTIC NEEDS AND PRIORITIES,

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NICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF NATIONAL CENTRES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, BEARING IN MIND THE VARIOUS FUNCTIONS OF SUCH CENTRES INTER ALIA THE IDENTIFICATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS, THE COLLECTION, EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, THE ASSISTANCE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ADAPTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SUITED TO DOMESTIC NEEDS AND PRIORITIES,

FURTHER REQUESTS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE HEADS OF UNCTAD, UNIDO, WIPO, UNDP, THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED, TO PROPOSE THE APPROPRIATE

IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED
NATIONS SYSTEM AS REGARDS THE TRANSFER AND DEVELOPMENT
OF TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING GUIDE-LINES FOR THE DIVISION
OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN DIFFERENT UNITED NATIONS
ORGANISATIONS AS WELL AS FOR THE NECESSARY INTER-AGENCY
CO-OPERATION, WITH A VIEW TO HARMONIZING ALL EFFORTS
INTO AN EFFICIENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME. UNQUOTE
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